112 1 DESCRIPTION

IN THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Canceled)

1 ~~32.~~ (Previously presented) A method of testing a compound for biological activity, which method comprises:

(i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from the group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F at the cell surface;

(ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound; and

(iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

2 ~~33.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

3 ~~34.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

35. (Canceled)

4 ~~36.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2A.

5 ~~37.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.

38-45. (Canceled)

10 46. (Previously presented) A method of identifying a compound affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

(i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F;

(ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of a test compound; and

(iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

47-49. (Canceled)

17 ~~50.~~ (Currently amended) A method for screening and producing an identified compound which affects the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

(i) selecting a test compound for screening;

(ii) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F;

(iii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound;

(iv) determining whether the presence of the test compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells thereby providing an identified compound; and

(v) producing the identified compound which affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

6 ~~51.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2B.

7 ~~52.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2E.

8 ~~53.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2F.

11 ~~54.~~ (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, further comprising using the identified compounds in therapeutic applications, wherein the identified compounds are antibodies.

12 ~~55.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

13 ~~56.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

14 ~~57.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2A.

15 ~~58.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.

16 ~~59.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

19 ~~60.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the

CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

20 ~~61.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2A.

21 ~~62.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.

9 ~~63.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the test compound is an antibody.

16 ~~64.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the test compound is an antibody.

22 ~~65.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the test compound is an antibody.